

THE CHURCH OF GOD EVANGEL

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ing House. It will assure you quicker
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CORRECTION

In the editorial of February 18 issue,
"Ye Must Be Born Again," in the
second paragraph, under "The Con-
duct of a Born-Again Person," the
word *frivolous* was left out of the
sentence, "For a person to think in
terms of the power of the blood," etc.
It should have read, "For a person
to think in *frivolous* terms of the
power of the blood in covering his sins
and forever blotting them out would
be the grossest of disrespect to the
sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus."

COVER PICTURE

A STRIKING HISTOIRETTE OF THE WILMINGTON, N. C., CHURCH

The church was organized by Brother
John L. Stephens soon after he be-
came state overseer of North Carolina,
and it has had a gradual growth since
the very beginning. It began to make



Rev. P. H. McCarn

a noticeable increase in membership
when Rev. G. C. Hamby became pas-
tor. Rev. Hamby was followed by Rev.
H. T. Durden. The church continued
to grow and was built to several times
its size while Brother Durden was
here. Rev. Durden was followed by
Rev. W. W. Harmon, who, soon after
he came here, saw the need of a new
and better church building. He began
to lay plans to this end. He had the
plans drawn for a building and was
raising money for this when he was
taken from the field of labor to be
with the Lord. His stay here was short,
but his life lives on in the city today.
Everyone thought very much of Brother
Harmon, and had the Lord seen fit
for him to live, he would have con-
tinued with the church building.

Brother Harmon was followed by
Rev. V. D. Combs, who came right in
and began to work, he, too, sensing
the need of a better and larger build-
ing. Soon they had a new brick struc-
ture with a nice auditorium, eight
Sunday School rooms, pastor's study,
and two rest rooms. The church not
only grew in building, but in member-
ship. Brother Combs had a very suc-
cessful ministry while in Wilmington,
and having served his time he left
the church in a fine spiritual and fi-
nancial condition.

It was my privilege to follow Brother
Combs to this fine pastorate that has
a mind to grow and move on for God.
I found a very anxious people to work
for the Master, which has made it
very easy for me to see the work con-

tinue to grow. If all churches could
have the foundation that the Wil-
mington church has had from the be-
ginning, and then continue on this
foundation, there would be no reason
for their not growing.

After I was here two years, we saw
the need of expanding our borders,
so we began to lay the foundation in
plans to erect an addition to the
church. We have, through the help of
the Lord, completed this building,
gives us an auditorium, 40 feet wide
and 74 feet long; a nice baptistry; a
new pastor's study; a nice modern
kitchen for the Willing Workers;
twelve more Sunday School rooms,
which makes us twenty in all; and an
office for the clerk, Sunday School
superintendent, and his workers. Since
coming to Wilmington, we have re-
ceived 197 members into the church.
Although the war was over and the
shipyard here soon closed, and a
goodly number of the old members
moved back to other places, we have
had a net gain in membership of 114
for the three and one-half years. Our
present membership is 314. We are in
the midst of the greatest revival in my
life, and I am expecting a great
number of members out of this. All
the honor for this growth belongs
God, and to Him we gladly give it.
Please remember us in prayer, and
we should appreciate a visit from you.
—P. H. McCarn, Pastor.

EVANGEL COUNT FOR JANUARY 1950

Alabama	961	Nevada	3
Arizona	54	Nebraska	24
Arkansas	230	New Jersey	45
California	367	New Mexico	35
Colorado	13	New York	80
Connecticut	8	North Carolina	1,698
Delaware	14	North Dakota	95
Florida	1,422	Ohio	447
Georgia	2,236	Oklahoma	442
Idaho	18	Oregon	39
Illinois	444	Pennsylvania	309
Indiana	234	South Carolina	2,302
Iowa	90	South Dakota	89
Kansas	69	Tennessee	1,618
Kentucky	536	Texas	336
Louisiana	333	Virginia	853
Maine	100	Washington	28
Maryland	127	Washington, D. C.	23
Massachusetts	5	West Virginia	1,022
Michigan	383	Wisconsin	16
Minnesota	23	Wyoming	
Mississippi	614	Central Canada	
Missouri	266	Western Canada	
Montana	55	Foreign	275
		Total	18,468

TELEGRAM

We the delegates of the Oklahoma state
prayer conference have read your mes-
sage "Pen-knifing the Bible." The teach-
ings are so valuable we shall be glad to
see it run again.—Revs. F. H. Dance, L. O.
Cooper, E. D. Curtsinger, C. J. Hindmon,
E. C. Campbell.

... Editorial ...

CHURCH ORIGINS



The study of churches, little or large, in the city or elsewhere and everywhere, surely is of interest to all unprejudiced church members, regardless of their denominational relation. With this thought in mind, I dedicate this article.

ORIGINS BY A FAMILY

Nothing could be so disconcerting to a family of devoted Church of God members as to move to a town where there is no church of their faith to attend. Therefore, many churches have had their limited yet courageous beginning due to such circumstances. This is not only reminiscent of Noah and Joshua, but it is also a reminder of Rev. — Dean, of North Carolina, who once said, "Praise God, when I go to a new place, I have enough in my family to organize a Church of God."

Nothing could be more certain than that a family church will be ultimately developed by interested people of the community casting their lots with them, and then, of course the thought of "a family church should terminate."

PRAYER MEETINGS

No person with a slight knowledge of the Bible and considerable experience in prayer would lightly estimate the value of prayer meetings.

It is not only a fact that prayer is one of the most effective exercises in maintaining a church, but out of prayer meetings, where fellowship was rich, have come some of the most substantial churches of the Church.

Should prayer meetings, with the thought of ultimately establishing churches in communities, be conducted today? I think so. Remember that the first Church of God meeting for the Gentiles was in Cornelius' home. You also remember about Lydia and the women in prayer meeting in Philippi, down by the river, and how Paul preached to them and later organized the prayer band into a Church of God.

However, it is not wise to have prayer meetings all about over the community where the church bell and chimes can be easily heard, for the sake of lazy people who won't attend church, or to give a few overzealous and many times disloyal members the chance to have free-for-all services, especially on Sunday afternoon, when they leave their prayer meetings—where they had a "wonderful time"—so hoarse they can't sing, and go to sleep while the pastor preaches, then leave before the altar service is over, sometimes remarking, "What a dry service." **THAT KIND OF PRAYER MEETING SHOULD BE OUT FOREVER!**

MACEDONIAN

If I have a stronger sentiment toward either group of these baby churches, it is toward this one. I have decided to call it the "Macedonian" because I have in mind those isolated groups of Christians, who, by various means, have been led to the Lord Jesus, but who, upon being converted, found themselves to be lost for the lack of a pastor and a church home.

Most ministers have had the privilege of answering a few of these orphan calls, and, although it was easy to see that the group, when organized, due to location, animosity of other people against their faith, financial conditions, etc., would not be able to develop into a giant church, they, nevertheless, deserved a church home.

MISSION

If a statistical check-up were to be made, I imagine we would find that *numbers* of our large churches had their initiation through humble missions of different kinds in the slums or rural districts.

Many mission organizers who were of the opinion that their affiliation with a denomination would hinder their efforts for God and put them in a strait jacket, were eventually convinced that in unity there is strength, and brought their missions to us.

Then we have found that our best approach to establishing a church in some places has been through mission enterprises. Generally, such projects are sponsored either by a local church or from the state mission treasury. Now and then a minister has the courage and faith to carry on without depending on any treasury. We need more of their courage.

CAMPAIGNS

I wouldn't have any of you, who are contemplating big evangelistic campaigns, take a defeatist attitude, but there is a possibility that after the big, prayerful, preaching push is over, and you come to the climatic service, instead of being able to shout over a landslide, you can count on your hands once, or multiplied by two, the number who line up to join the church. If this happens to be the case, just read Noah's history again for comfort. Think of the twelve with whom Jesus started His work, and praise God for the brave hearts who are willing to be the charter members of the Church of God in that respective place. With this attitude, you can put not only one thousand demons to flight, but all of them to flight, bring more members to your number, build a church, and be a greater influence over the lost than the church with the highest steeple, finest pipe organ, most decorated pulpit, finest carpeted aisles and soft-cushioned pews, and its thousand or more members.

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—Matthew 16:13-18.

The Thorn in the Flesh

By C. G. PASCHAL

Text: "...there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure," 2 Cor. 12:7.

There has been much speculation among Bible scholars (perhaps always will be) as to what Paul meant by the "thorn in the flesh." After hearing and reading the different views advanced by prominent Bible scholars, I have decided my guess is as good as theirs. Yet, I do not claim to be an infallible authority on interpreting the Scriptures.

Some Bible scholars have interpreted the "thorn in the flesh" as being the Adamic nature all men inherited from Adam, and it is called by some the "inbred sin, or carnal nature"; by others, "depravity, from which arises the proneness to sin." They base their claim on this scripture, "By one man (Adam) sin was passed upon all men," Rom. 5:12; and also that scripture wherein David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me," Psalm 51:5. I do not deny the existence of the Adamic nature or *inbred sin* in the human life, and that it has been transmitted, like an inherited disease, down through the years since the fall of Adam to all mankind; but I cannot see why any thinking minister of the gospel can classify the "thorn in the flesh" and the Adamic nature as being the same.

Still other students of the Bible are want to define the "thorn in the flesh" as being some sickness or infirmity of the flesh or body in which there is produced a mental depression or morbidness of thought and physical action. To my way of thinking, they are nearer right than those of the above view. Yet, I do not think they are right. However, I agree with them that any infirmity of the flesh can produce a dejectedness of spirit. They cite, to prove their point, that Paul suffered from cataracts or soreness

of the eyes. They point out that his vision was so imperfect he did not recognize the high priest in his priestly regalia (Acts 23:1-9), and that most of the thirteen epistles accredited to Paul were written by the hands of an amanuensis, as Paul dictated them. That there was something wrong with Paul's eyesight seems factual. Had we been smitten to the earth with a heavenly light as bright as that by which Paul was, we too might need a pair of double thick lens to see well. With all these facts confronting me, I still can't see any direct connection or association of the two, not that I want to be different—I just don't see it that way.

Then, too, there is the layman's view of the "thorn in the flesh." It is pretty well covered in the statement of the colored sister concerning her husband. "My ole man's a thorn in de flesh to me. That lazy, no count, pilferin', aggravatin' man's a perpetual torment to me." As amusing as her statement may seem, there are many people who think the "thorn in the flesh" is temptations from other people and things. As logical and reasonable as any view may seem, it does not alter the facts that surround the case. Circumstantial evidence has sent many innocent men to the chain gang. Years later, when the truth came to light, the facts were known, the guilty party confessed, and the innocent party was released, it made us wonder if justice did not need a better pair of glasses. This goes for views on the Scripture, too. Many a minister has rendered a seemingly apt and reasonable interpretation of the Bible, clear enough to seem right, yet far from the actual truth. Learned men of the Bible have interpreted prophecies in so many different lights, the world wonders who is right!

I am not a "New Light" theorist;



REV. C. G. PASCHAL, BOX 318,
SNELLVILLE, GA.

I do not seek to be different from other men just to be different. Only when I feel the Word itself sheds clear light on a thought do I express myself. I give you my views on the "thorn in the flesh," and I will let you be the judge as to whether I am right or not.

First, let me prove that the "thorn in the flesh" is not the Adamic nature. Paul had sought and found deliverance from this nature, as shown in his statement of his personal experience. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death," Rom. 8:2. Then, as to the Romans and us, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life," Rom. 6:22. I shall not elaborate on this point, for it is generally conceded among believers in holiness that the "blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin," which includes the Adamic sin, or nature, as well as actual sins. If you do not believe in holiness of life, you do not believe in anything worth while. Paul found deliverance from Adamic sin in the early state of Christian life. He never allowed it return! His life was that of exemplified holiness in which he stated he had lived those years with "a conscience void of offense toward God and man." Nobody but a real true blue, dyed-in-the-wool, sanctified man could make such a statement. The Adamic nature was not given to men to "keep them from being exalted

(Continued on page 15)

Extra!

State Activities



Iowa and Nebraska District Rallies

Davenport Convention—April 1, 2. A. S. Smiddy, district pastor.

Jefferson—April 4, 5. J. H. Freeman, district pastor.

Knoxville—April 8, 9. C. H. Franklin, district pastor.

Red Oak—April 15, 16. Harold Phillips, district pastor.

Omaha—April 18, 19. C. L. Barker, district pastor.

Wymore—April 22, 23. J. W. Atkins, district pastor.

Each church is expected to bring to the district rally a mission offering. This money is to be used in your state work—in Iowa and Nebraska. —Carl Cox, State Overseer.

Rev. C. M. Day—Church Builder



On Sunday, Dec. 18, many of the neighboring churches in Birmingham, Ala., and friends from a distance, met with Rev. C. M. Day and his state overseer, W. E. Johnson, in the dedicatory service of the magnificent \$60,000 church building that was erected during 1949 on a \$3,000 lot in Woodlawn. The beautiful structure is 38 by 75 feet and has cathedral glasses. The

beautiful auditorium has hardwood floors, and is completely furnished with lovely pews, a baptistry, Baby Grand piano, and chimes.

The Reverend Day not only deserves hearty commendation for leading his church in this great achievement with only a \$19,000 indebtedness, but he deserves a double compliment in that in 1948 he led the membership at Bradford, Ala., in erecting a beautiful church building. In the light of all this, Brother Day's work speaks for itself, and may the Lord's rich blessings continue to rest upon him.

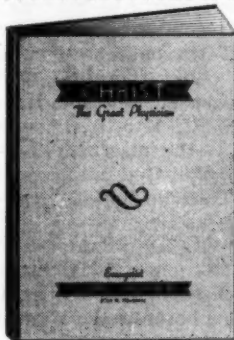
News From Iowa & Nebraska

Cincinnati closed a great revival with Brother A. S. Smiddy doing the preaching. The town was moved in a great way. The church was blessed with Brother Smiddy's preaching.

A revival is in progress at Davenport with Bro. Paul Barker doing the preaching. They are having a good revival, the crowds are good. God is blessing in a wonderful way. Brother A. S. Smiddy is doing a good work in Davenport, Iowa.—Carl Cox, State Overseer.

What About South Carolina?

The South Carolina State News carried an article informing us that South Carolina is to erect a \$100,000 tabernacle, which will seat 4,500 peo-



CHRIST—THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

By Evangelist Carl Henry

The author has dealt with the subject in a masterly way. He has produced an outstanding treatise on healing as based on the Word of God, resulting in 'Thus saith the Lord' to all believers who dare to trust God for their healing. Ministers and laymen will find this book most refreshing to their faith. It abounds with testimonies of healing as witnesses to the truth of the gospel. Every practical angle and issue of divine healing has been met and dealt with.

Price \$1.10.

Church of God Pub. House, Cleveland, Tenn.

ple and have equipment for overflow crowds of some 1,500. Each church pledged an amount equivalent to 50 cents a member for the financing of this project. Houston R. Morehead is state overseer.

Mississippi's District Conventions

We are beginning a little earlier with our district conventions because of the fact that we shall have our state convention in June this time.

The Lord met with us in every convention last year, and because of your cooperation, the State of Mississippi showed satisfactory gains in every department of the Church work. However, if we are to realize progress in our conventions this year, it will take the same wholehearted cooperation on the part of our ministers and laity. We are counting on you.

We are listing below the dates worked out for the district conventions:

Jackson District February 24, 25, 26.
Morgantown District March 3, 4, 5.
Gulf Coast District March 10, 11, 12.
Hattiesburg District March 17, 18, 19.
Meadville District March 24, 25, 26.
Stonefield District March 31, April 1, 2.
Delta District April 14, 15, 16.
West Point District April 21, 22, 23.
Wheeler District April 28, 29, 30.
Rocky Hill District May 5, 6, 7.
John L. Byrd, Overseer

Indiana's District Conventions

Austin District—March 10, 11
Harrison District—March 17, 18
W. Indianapolis District—March 24, 25
Mishawaka District—March 31, April 1
North Salem District—April 21, 22
Shelburn District—April 28, 29.
—C. C. Rains, State Overseer.



The Church of God in Action

By Rev. C. G. Belleh
Longview, Wash.

We trust that we can be a blessing and a help to those who might be easily mislead concerning the church and also the tongues (the old-time Pentecostal way) in the church, for there are those who say there is no church (organized) where man has authority to add those who have been saved (born again) to it.

First, we shall take a look at the church. In Matt. 16:18, Jesus said, "... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." When He said, "I will build my church," it was very positive evidence there was no church up to that time. There was no institution or place of gathering to worship God that was called a church. All the places of worship were called or termed house of God, Zion, tabernacles, synagogues, etc.; but here in Matt. 16:18, we hear Him say or declare that He will build His church (not churches). To prove that He did intend His institution to be called the church, let's take a look at Matt. 18:15-18. Jesus makes it plain that if the offending one refuses to hear you and the witnesses that you take with you, then there is only one thing to do. Take him to the church. He called it a church himself after He declared that He would build His church. He also intended for someone to be in the church with authority to be rulers in the church. "If he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." What is a heathen? He is a sinner. What? Do you think He would want a sinner to remain in His church? No, indeed not. Read also 1 Corinthians 5 and see what got into the church and what the people did about it, and also what Paul said to do with that wicked one. To do that, it was necessary for someone to be there in the church with authority.

Now let's look at the church (the organized part of it) again. Someone, or more than one, had to have authority to do such things. Since it is

to be the church that Christ said He would build, and if it is to be for Him, it must be *clean* and *holy*, a *sanctified church*. As to the organizers, Christ chose the members of that body of men that were to be the organizers. He chose the twelve disciples for His men to do the job. He ordained and commissioned them what to do. So the church came into existence on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:47 says that God added to the church daily such as should be saved. Let us pause here for just a moment to say that there are some people who call themselves the Church of God, who claim by this verse that God and not man adds to the church. All right, let's see if this is true. Jesus had His chosen men, and He also gave them commission and authority to do this work. Since He Himself had to go back to the Father, He, therefore, had to have men to do this work which He had started (John 4:34). Now I'll show you a mystery, but I speak of Christ and His church, to those who claim that God and not man adds to the church. When a couple gets married, who joins them together? Does God come down in person to perform the job? or do they just agree to be man and wife, and go ahead and live together? or does man officiate at the job? Of course, you have to admit that man does this. Then you have gotten yourself into a very bad place by this statement, for it is true that man officiates at the marriage ceremony. But listen to this, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," Matt. 19:5, 6. Though man officiates at the marriage ceremony, Jesus said that God hath joined them together. God did join them together the same as He adds the people to the church. He ordained and commissioned His men to do it, therefore it is God working through man, the ones He has chosen and ordained on down through the ages to our

present day.

God's man was also given the authority to put away from among them (the church) those who are unruly (1 Cor. 5:13). We read in Heb. 13:7, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God." This is your pastor, your evangelist, your overseers (general, state, or district), and all others who are over the work of the church. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you," Heb. 13:17. This is just a small outline of the church and its men of authority, both to add to it and to take away the unruly.

TONGUES

The tongues came into the church on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4. They all (not part of them) spake in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. On this great day the promise of the Father arrived, and when He came, He came to stay forever. Jesus declared that He would pray to the Father, "and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever." So, the Holy Ghost is here to stay, regardless how many call us fanatics. Jesus also said, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you," John 16:7. To those who deny the Holy Ghost and call it fanaticism, read also the eighth verse. Now see if this doesn't show up something on your life that should not be there. If you ever receive the Holy Ghost, you will have to come clean, confess and repent of your sins, and accept the Word of God just as it is. And if you ever get the Holy Ghost to come into that temple, He will most certainly speak for Himself. And to you who claim that you have already received the Holy Ghost but didn't speak in tongues like those in the Bible and millions all down through age, I will say on the authority of God's Word you have never received Him, for Jesus said, "When he is come he will testify of me," John 15:26. Jesus also said, "... for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak," John 16:13. The Holy Ghost can speak; He is not a dumb Holy Ghost. He spoke on (Continued on page 7)

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OF GOD ORPHANAGE

October, November, December,
1949

Mrs. Mae Truitt, Box 94, Metamore, Ind., 1 box washcloths.
Mr. Carl Skinner, Box 1541, Ft. Myers, Fla., 1 box used clothing and shoes.
Mrs. Hursley Hyton, Rt. 7, Box 249, Richmond, Va., 1 box used clothing.
Mrs. Flosena Murphy, Cleveland, Tenn., 1 box used clothing.
Mrs. Flavius Joe McLain, Cleveland, Tenn., coats, 1 dress.
Virgie Holloway, Rt. 3, Coffeeville, Miss., 2 dresses.
The Church of God, Springfield, Ohio, 2 Indian blankets, 1 double blanket, 3 washcloths. Lions Club, Sevierville, Tenn., peanuts and popcorn for all the children.
L.W.W.B., 1938 Florida Ave., Jacksonville, Fla., 3 boxes used clothing.
Mrs. L. C. Chambers, Peoples St., Cleveland, Tenn., 7 gal. jelly.
Church of God, Rev. Geo. W. Ayers, pastor, Box 42, Cawood, Ky., 3 large boxes Christmas gifts, clothing, and toys.
Mrs. Sella Worley, 1002 N. Third Ave., Maywood, Ill., 1 box Christmas gifts.
Church of God, 19 N. Fifth St., Wymore, Nebr., 1 box toys, washcloths and candy.
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Burton, Rt. 2, Eupora, Miss., 1 box boys' and girls' underwear, 1 pr. slippers.
Church of God Y.P.E., Box 122, Newport, Ind., Scrapbooks for Christmas presents.
Mrs. Mamie Moat, Rt. 2, Clanton, Ala., 4 used dresses, underwear, 1 pr. socks, 23 new dresses.
R. L. Glenn, 916 15th Ave., Laurel, Miss., 2 boxes used clothing and shoes.
Church of God Sunday School, McMinnville, Tenn., 25 lbs. mixed candy.
No name, no address, 2 boxes used clothing.
Church of God Young People's Sunday School Class, Somerset, Ky., 1 large box toys, clothing, candy, and nuts.
No name, Meriden, Conn., 1 large box Christmas toys.
R. W. Hashford, 529 W. Main St., Ada, Okla., 1 box clothing, candy, nuts, and toys.
Rev. H. B. Spivey, 1914 Fourth Ave., N. Birmingham, Ala., 1 large quantity of candy.
Church of God Sunday School, Winnsboro, S. C., 1 pkg. clothing and toys.
Mrs. L. L. Harvey, Mulberry, Fla., 2 crates oranges.
Church of God, Smithers, W. Va., books and candy.
Rev. G. C. Spencer, P. O. Box 1, Krafton, Ala., candy, nuts, fruit, and school articles.
Rev. J. B. Camp, 14 Pawsland, Portland, Maine, 1 box gifts.
Church of God, Lincoln Center, Maine, toys and clothing.
L.W.W.B., Davenport, Iowa, 1 quantity candy and nuts.
Yatewood Church of God, Rt. 3, Coffeeville, Miss., 1 pkg.
Church of God, 1266 Miller St., Harrisburg, Penn., 1 box clothing and gifts.
Church of God, 1015 Spain St., New Orleans, La., 1 box used clothing and toys.
Mrs. J. R. Durrett, 3230 Frenchman St., New Orleans, La., 1 box used clothing.
J. Neshem, Edward, N. Y., 1 large box candy.
Mrs. Luther Tucker, 4324 LaFayette Ave., Norwood 12, Ohio, 1 box towels and washcloths.
Church of God, Rawl, West Virginia, toys, soap, and coupons.
Walter E. Onkst, Royal Blue, Tenn., 1 box used clothing.
Church of God, 1539 E. 24th St., Minneapolis, Minn., box nuts and candy.
Church of God, Odessa, Wash., new clothing Christmas gifts.
Mrs. F. J. Auten, 3962 C. Street, S.E., Washington, D. C., gifts, books, etc., for children.
Damasus Road Church of God, Blakely, Ga., nuts and toys.
Dian Southerland, 304 Chester St., Alabama City, Ala., books.
E. E. Oneal, 510 Campbell St., Thomasville, Ga., 1 large bag nuts.
Church of God, Bayou La Batre, Ala., 2 large boxes toys, hair oil, Christmas gifts, etc.
Church of God, High Spire, Pa., 1 box candy.
Rev. R. D. Cook, Rt. 1, Box 230-F, Oakley, Calif., 1 large box used clothing, shoes, large quantity nuts, candy, and fruit.
Church of God, Hermiston, Oregon, 1 large Christmas box.
J. W. Heaton, 25 Claum Ave., Elberton, Ga., 1 barrel of gifts.

Ruth Redman, Box 534, Bloomington, Ohio, used clothing and gifts.
Church of God Sunday School Class No. 25, Tremont Ave., Greenville, S. C., 1 box gifts.
Mrs. Howard Hamm, 709 W. Columbia St., Somerset, Ky., toys and clothing.
Mrs. Ernest Dye, Wheelwright, Ky., 1 large box of towels and washcloths.
Mrs. Clifford Goodwin, Rt. 1, Box 91, Bristol, W. Va., 1 box gifts.
Rev. A. L. Smith, Church of God, Manns Choice, Pa., 1 box gifts.
Rev. W. M. Granger, Box 751, Jenna, La., nuts, candy, gifts.
Church of God Junior Sunday School Class, Everts, Ky., candy and gum.
Rev. G. C. Spencer, P. O. Box 1, Krafton, Ala., 1 box used clothing.
Church of God, Lemmon, S. D., 1 box gifts.
W. Y. Barnett, Rt. 1, Bloom, Kans., candy and nuts.
W. L. Sharp, West Point, Mo., 1 box clothing.
Church of God, Lindsay, Okla., 1 box gifts.
John Sevier Motor Co., Sevierville, Tenn., 1/2 bushel oranges.
Church of God, Milford, Del., 1 box clothing.
Northwest Bible and Music Academy, Box 508, Minot, N. Dak., 1 box gifts.
Church of God, Sulphur Springs, Fla., 4 boxes fruit.
Church of God Sunday School Class No. 4, Pratt City, Ala., 19 T. shirts.
C. E. Griffith, Rt. 2, Williamsport, Md., Christmas candy.
Rev. O. S. Shreve, Mt. Clinton, Va., 1 box toys.
Youth Sunday School Class, Russell Springs, Ky., 1 box toys and candy.
Inez Duncan, Box 474, St. Charles, Va., 1 box candy and gum.
Church of God, Cawood, Ky., 1 box used clothing, 1 pkg. Christmas gifts.
Church of God, N. Rome, Ga., approx. 100 lbs. candy.
Mrs. H. T. Ellingsen, Baltimore, Md., 10 boys' new undershirts.

War District, West Virginia, L. L. McDaniel, District Pastor, candy, toys, gifts, and clothing.
Church of God, Ed. Shepherd, Sevierville, Tenn., 1 large quantity candy.
Mr. B. M. Grinstead, Distributor, Gulf Refining Company, Sevierville, Tenn., 1 box candy.
Rev. Ray Brooks, Rt. 1, Cherryfield, Maine, 1 box used clothing.
E. Sharoff, 1449 Ridge Place, S.E., Washington 20, D. C., 1 box gum.
Mrs. A. L. Watts, 423 Roosevelt St., Tallahassee, Fla., 1 box used clothing.
Mrs. R. B. Seaton, Rt. 1, Muleshoe, Texas, 3 nice dresses, 3 bags nuts.
Church of God, P. O. Box 326, Albany, Ga., 1 box used clothing.
Mrs. Mary Ellen, Rt. 3, Forest, Ohio, 1 box used clothing.
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Staples, Rt. 2, Amherst, Va., 1 box nuts.
R. E. Nuzum, 541 S. Goham St., Pittsburgh, Pa., 1 box toys and gifts.
Church of God, Rev. E. Ray Kirk, Pastor, Ft. Meade, Fla., 7 bu. oranges, 2 bu. grapefruit, 2 crates tangerines.
Church of God, Crescent Springs, Ky., 1 bu. oranges.
Harvey Giddens, Lakeland, Fla., 1 crate oranges.
Rev. C. H. Franklin, Knoxville, Iowa, 1 box apples, 12 pints corn.
A. J. Duncan, Box 252, Nocatee, Fla., 1 bu. apples.
Church of God, Winter Haven, Fla., 2 bu. oranges.
Kerns Bread Co., Knoxville, Tenn., 260 large sticks candy.
M. M. Thomas, Tampa, Fla., 4 bu. oranges.
Rev. Byrd, Lakeland, Fla., 2 crates oranges.
No name, 551 Piedmont, Orlando, Fla., 2 bu. oranges.
Mrs. L. H. Harvey, Mulberry, Fla., 2 bu. oranges.

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN ACTION

(Continued from page 6)

the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4), and He has been speaking ever since. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," Acts 2:4. Some say that these were educated men, that they had gone to college to learn these different languages; but the seventh verse says, "... are not all these which speak Galileans?" The Galileans were an ignorant class of people, so far as education was concerned. They earned their living by fishing and such classes of labor, yet when they received the Holy Ghost they spake with other tongues and the Jews from every nation under heaven understood what they were saying. Furthermore, Acts 4:13 states that when they (the people) saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled. Now this was after they had received the Holy Ghost, yet the people saw that they had never gone to college, but they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. If you don't like speaking in tongues, read 1 Cor. 14:39, "Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues."

I thank God that I received the

Holy Ghost before someone came along and told me the Holy Ghost was fanaticism.

Jesus came into the world that He might save the people from their sins (Matt. 1:21), and that's why I am saved. He suffered outside the gates that I might be sanctified by His blood (Heb. 13:12), and that's why I am sanctified. He went back to the Father to send the Holy Ghost, which is the other Comforter He told us about (John 16:7), and that's why I have received the Holy Ghost. He also built His church and gave all who would be saved the privilege of being added (joined) to that church, and that's why I am a member of the Church of God. Please read Ezek. 43:10, 11. These people had a house in those days. It was the house of God. If they entered into that house they must first be ashamed of their iniquities (repent) and be willing to live up to all the laws and all the ordinances. So that's what you have to do if you want in the Church of God. Why? Because you must be saved (born again) before you are eligible for membership in the church. John the Baptist refused to baptize people who came to him who had not repented or showed signs of repentance. How much more should we refuse to knowingly receive a sinner into the fellowship of the Church of God.

GOD IN THE FIRE

A radio message delivered over KXLO, Lewistown, Mont., by Noel W. Lowe.

We invite your attention to the book of the prophet Daniel for our meditation.

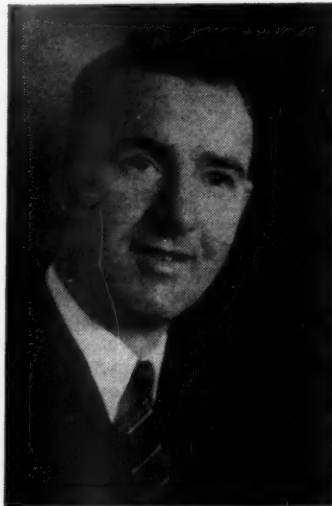
The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego you very well know. From childhood days, when at Mother's knee, we listened to the Bible stories, and to the prophetic interpretations in later years, when we have listened to sermons from the pulpit on the narrative of the fiery furnace, and the miraculous deliverance has never been forgotten. It is not my purpose, in this message, to bring to you the narrative, but rather to bring to your attention a present truth, which, when once assimilated, will so transform you that you will never be the same again. No Christian can ever grow in grace until he becomes convinced that back of all the events of his life is the guiding providence of the Eternal God.

I believe that it is possible for us to create situations in our lives which are not directly brought about by the planning of the Eternal. We get into some difficulties unnecessarily. We find ourselves in circumstances of which we never dreamed when we first started down the road that led our wandering feet into them. Perhaps it is there that we discover the miracle of God's grace. It is useless for us to chastise with needless condemnations. Rather, we should remember that Love will seek us out, and Goodness and Mercy lead us back into the paths of righteousness. There are, however, some situations into which we are directly led by the Spirit of the Lord. They, perhaps, are circumstances which we would not want but which God knows we need.

The evangelist is not true to his calling or his Christ who invites people to the foot of the cross on the basis that if they come to Jesus their trouble will be gone, their questions answered, and their problems solved. I wonder what the Lord will have to say about our old-fashioned technique of a few deathbed stories, which, in most instances, would move the people with pathos, even though they had no re-

lationship to a religious appeal.

Men do not want to listen to the sophistries so often uttered from our modern pulpits. The need of the crucial hour is for a direct, positive declaration of those dynamic truths which will meet the need of the present and stand the test of tomorrow. The plain truth is that when we accept Jesus as our Saviour and as our Guide, our diffi-



Noel W. Lowe

culties are not over and our troubles have not ceased. The road along life's highway that leads heavenward is not always taking us through shady green pastures so rich and so sweet. Only too often we become disillusioned as the Holy Ghost breaks down the dreams of yesterday and takes from us those things we long have cherished and desired to possess.

There are times when you can sing "Where the cool waters flow bathe the weary one's feet," but it would hardly have been appropriate for the three Hebrew children as they were on their way to the fiery furnace. The truth I am trying to bring to you is this: we believe it was the will of God to get them out of the furnace

of fire, but I believe it was the thrill of God that they should get into it. We shout and rejoice at the almighty deliverance, but we should also sit in spiritual meditations in contemplation of the fact that it was God who led them there.

When the preacher tells us that it was the will of the heavenly Father that Christ should go to the cross, we reverently bow our heads. It is so easy to believe that Christ died for us, but so hard for us to lay our lives on the cross of complete and absolute surrender. I wonder what the apostle Paul meant when he said, "I die daily." To be crucified with Christ means more than theological interpretation. The man who says, "I am crucified with Christ," then continues to live in the flesh is, in reality, making the crucifixion of Christ Himself of no avail. The surrendered life is the only one which is amendable to the fulness of His lovely presence. We know not the road that twists and winds ahead. It is a comfort and consolation to be able to turn it all over to Him. In the Christian growth to maturity, there are roads that lead to a transfiguration and others to a Gethsemane. The same Galilee by which we feed the five thousand today will be a furious, stormy, tempestuous ocean tomorrow. The same boat in which we sail to catch our fish and which was full when we came home at the breaking of day, tomorrow will be empty of fish and filled with tired, weary men, which brings us to a mighty truth. What a mistake we make in running to the Lord with many of our so-called difficulties, asking and pleading for deliverance! Would it not be better for us to pray for grace to endure and for the grace that is all sufficient? Why do we blame everything on the devil, if we do not like it? More than once I have heard testimonies, born of sincerity, yet in the light of God's eternal truth they should never have been given. When skies are clear and cloudless, and His eternal peace fills the heart, we tell of the presence

of the Lord and of His abiding goodness. But let the storm clouds form overhead; let them hide the smiling of the sun, until over our bewildered souls the storm breaks in all its relentless fury. Instead of accepting it as part of the divine plan for the development of our experiences, we show our lack of faith in God by requesting the prayers of the saints for our deliverance. In my own heart, I have long been convinced that many experiences we attribute to Satan have not come from him at all. They are the leadings of the Lord, taking them through those necessary experiences the purposes of which will only be revealed after faith has sung its sweetest song in the unfolding light of some glad tomorrow.

Let us see how close the experience of the three Hebrew children parallel our experiences of today. It was not by chance they found themselves in Babylon. The Lord looked into the future and planned the lives of these men whose experiences would become an inspiration to generations yet unborn. Perhaps when they were first taken captive, and the news circulated through the neighborhood that these good men were carried away by Nebuchadnezzar, the most devout of their friends might have shaken their heads and said, "How sad." The thing that seemed to be a tragedy was a blessing in disguise.

When his brothers put Joseph into the pit and came home with their story of his death and his coat of many colors, little did they realize that what they thought was a pit was a door which led unerringly to the lofty position of prime minister of Egypt. No one knew it but God, which was just the way it should be. Had the father known it, he would have stopped the brothers from taking Joseph out. Had the brothers known it, they never would have put him into the pit. Had Joseph ever known it, he never would have learned the lesson which was an anchor to him in the storms of the years to come. Have you forgotten how he said to his brothers, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good." The trial would be of no value if we understood the purpose before we went into it. The testing would not be a testing, if we knew how we were going to come out. There would be no room for trust, if we knew the end from the beginning.

The three Hebrews were brought

into Babylon only because God permitted it. They knew they were leaving everything that had been dear to them. The future was obscure to them when they left Palestine. They did not know what awaited them in the land to which they were being led. But they walked with unfaltering confidence in the providence of God, and in their hearts they were resolved never to forsake Jehovah God. The beautiful thing about them was that they trusted God when they did not understand. Little did they realize that, because of their journey, there was to dawn one of the greatest days in the history of Babylon. They thought, as we often do, that they were walking into their own captivity; but, as a matter of fact, they were on their way to hand the key of liberation to a nation which was bound in the fetters of iniquity,

GOSPELETTES

By Rev. Manuel F. Campbell

Money has put many people in high circles of society on this earth, but nothing short of faith in the blood of the Son of God can put a person in the holy society of heaven.

Jesus came from glory on the greatest mercy mission. Herod tried to kill Him; Thomas doubted Him; Peter denied Him; Judas betrayed Him; and angry men nailed Him on a tree. What have you done with Jesus?

The entire wealth of many people is all deposited on this earth; but the Christian, the greater part of his is in the vault of heaven. Where is yours?

The manger in the stable was the lowest point Christ knew on earth. It was from the manger, to the cross, through the grave, and triumphantly to glory.

idolatry, and sin. They did not understand that the day would dawn when a king would utter the proclamation that all people of every kindred and tongue should worship the God of the three Hebrews, "because there is no other God which can deliver after this sort."

How the Babylon of today needs men of the unconquering trust and unswerving faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, for I am convinced that our Babylon of today is just about as bad as was theirs. There is a need of our moving back to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Guide of our individual lives, the Author of our faith, our hope, and our

salvation.

The three stood in bewilderment but not in indecision, bewildered because of circumstances, but conscious in their hearts that God would somehow see them through. From the lips of the king came the query, "Who is the God that is able to deliver thee?" The three Hebrews knew His name, but they did not understand His methods. It is in situations like this that saints are made. It is in such circumstances that Faith sings its sweetest song, and Trust performs its noblest ministry. So, into the fire went the three Hebrews. But it was in the fire that they met the Lord; they trusted Him before it, but they met Him in it. They looked for Him in the palace, but He was waiting for them in the fire. There is where we often come face to face with God.

Let us look at the fact that God and the king both saw the fire. To the king it was destructive, but to God it was constructive. To the king it was death; but to God it was life. To the king it was punishment, but to God it was reward. It was the same fire they both saw. The king saw it as he thought it was, and God saw it as it really was.

It was in the fire that the Hebrews met their Lord. If you fail to find Jesus in the crowd of friends, you may find Him in Gethsemane. Jonah missed Him in Gathi-hepther but met Him in the belly of the whale. So I say, God has not forsaken you. Do not let the frailties of your human nature bring you to a place of despondency and despair. Underneath you are still the everlasting arms. Around you is thrown the mantle of His grace. Jesus declares He will be with us always, that He will not leave nor forsake us. If the Lord had leaned over the battlements of glory and whispered in the ears of the three Hebrews the secret of their deliverance before it happened, the glory of the lesson of the fire would have forever been lost, and the beauty of the sublimity of their faith and confidence would never have been recorded. It is in the hour when we do not understand that we should trust Him most.

If God leads you through a valley, it is only because He is taking you to a mountain. If He causes you to shed a tear, it is because He wants to turn it into a pearl. If you cry today, it may be that He wants you to be able to sing tomorrow.

Oh, Praise the Lord

LESLIE, Ark.—My heart is made to rejoice this morning as I begin to meditate on the goodness of God. I had rather be saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost than anything this side of heaven. I praise God for healing my body when I was so sick the doctors had sent me home to die. The time came when all I remember was my suffering and calling for prayer. Last winter I got so bad that I don't remember anything about it. My family says my suffering was so great until they held me on the bed for more than a week. Then they took me to the hospital and I was strapped down for more than a week. My husband sent for Brother Berry, pastor of the Church of God in Searcy, Ark. They prayed for me, and God healed me. I have been eating anything I want from that time, and I worked last summer in a fruit stand. God is so real to me. He is to us just what we will let Him be.—May Rushing, Booster Route.

ONEIDA, Tenn.—I praise the Lord for what He has been to me. Thirty years ago He gave me this good blessing, and I am so glad He still abides in my soul today. I praise the Lord for His healing power. About 29 years ago the Lord wonderfully healed me. I was on my deathbed, but when prayer was offered the Lord rebuked death and healed me, for which I still praise Him. God has healed me many times. God will heal our bodies if we will look to Him with the eye of faith. I have been afflicted with sugar diabetes and I need your prayers that the Lord will completely heal me.—Lana Sexton.

LAURINBURG, N. C.—I praise the Lord for what He means to me, and for what He has done for me. I thank Him for saving, sanctifying, and filling me with the Holy Ghost. I thank Him for healing me so many times. I praise the Lord for healing me of a sore throat. Pray for my home.—Ruth Tucker.

MARKED TREE, Ark.—I thank God for saving, sanctifying me, and filling me with the Holy Ghost. I also praise Him for His healing power because I know it is real. We have just closed a three weeks' revival here, with

Brother Laverne Holt doing the preaching. One night during the revival I became paralyzed in my left arm, leg, and foot, Brother Holt prayed for me and the Lord healed me that very minute.—Mrs. D. R. Bailey.

TOCCOA, Ga.—I praise the dear Lord for the way He has blessed me so many times, but I praise Him most of all for the healing of my body. I had been past going to church at any distance and having to walk, but one night while Brother Robinson, pastor of the Church of God in Toccoa, Ga., was having a healing service, he laid his hands on me in the name of Jesus and God healed me then. I have been walking to church ever since. He also healed me of a very bad headache and other things, through the prayers of Brother Robinson. We appreciate a man of God like him, a man who has the gift of healing. Pray for me to go all the way with the Lord.—Mrs. Holcombe.

MEMORY CORNER



Personnel. Left to right, back row: Mrs. M. L. Christenberry, Mrs. Velma Clontz, Miss Maudell Morse, and Mrs. J. T. Young. Two in front, left to right: Mrs. Fortenbury of Mooresville, N. C., and Mrs. J. D. Bright.

Place: near York, S. C., where Miss Morse (now Mrs. Paul Meares), Mrs. Bright, Curtis, and I narrowly escaped death in a wreck the day before. Time: During Rock Hill District Convention, 1941.



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Spirituality at Lee College

By Charles W. Conn, Editor, *The LIGHTED PATHWAY*

It has been my privilege to speak at Lee College on several occasions recently, for both week-end and chapel services. Being in these services has been a blessing and an inspiration to my life, for the spiritual tide in our college is running exceedingly high. I doubt that one could visit any local church and find more fervent spiritual worship.

The Sunday morning services are not compulsory, but optional, giving the students the privilege of attending the various local churches. It is amazing how many of the students remain on the campus for these services in the Little Auditorium. Each of the last three Sundays there has not been enough seating space for the students and the increasing number of visitors who choose to worship at the College. The attendance still increases with each succeeding service. The manifestations of God's power are wonderful, and the atmosphere of devotion in each service is remarkable.

The service of last night (Sunday, February 12) is still glowing in my heart. It was one of the most heavenly services I have been in for the past year. After the inspiring songs, congregational and special, the Scripture reading and concert prayer, it was time for the sermon. But God had something much better than a sermon prepared for us. The entire proceeding had been charged with the presence of the Holy Ghost; there seemed to be an inspired expectancy in the hearts of the entire congregation, and while we sang "When the Roll Is Called up Yonder," the pent-up flood of joy burst forth into glorious manifestations of the Spirit. All over the main floor of the Auditorium and up in the balcony the people shouted, spoke in tongues, and wept in the Spirit. After a long, refreshing season of this spiritual exercise, the Holy Ghost began to speak through His vessels of flesh an exhortation to the congregation. Suddenly, with spontaneous conviction of sins and hunger for God, sinners began to leave their seats and kneel at the altar, praying, weeping, and rejoicing.

The altar service continued until

well after midnight, and a large number were saved and baptized in the Holy Ghost. It has been wonderful at the College lately—this lingering and increasing spiritual fervency. Certainly, it must be the beginning of a spontaneous revival that will sweep the entire school and leave its imprint in each student's and teacher's heart.

MISS BEATRICE HAMILTON REPORTS

"The glory of the Lord was in the midst of His people."

Last night, February 12, an avalanche of God's glory and power swept the regular Sunday night congregation of Lee College, and we were made to sit together in heavenly places.

The season of rejoicing was followed by the Holy Ghost's speaking to our hearts through the instrumentality of Spirit-filled Christians. The Spirit Himself invited us to seek Him. Conviction reigned, and young people rushed to the altar to be saved or receive a deeper experience with God.

The Pentecostal flame continued to burn in the chapel service (13th) and it was a fine testimony and praise to the One Who has so gloriously revived us. The Auditorium seemed to be charged with the power of God, and another invitation was extended by the Holy Ghost, resulting in the altar being filled with eager young people who hungered for deeper experiences.

To many, the noon hour was insignificant. A large group remained to feast on heavenly manna, and the Holy Ghost fire is still falling. President Brinsfield happily declares that we are receiving a portion of the latter rain.

We do not know how many have prayed through to victory. Nor do we know how long this revival will continue. But of this we are confident: the One Who has begun this work in our midst is able to empower every member of the Lee College family for a great service for His cause. We appreciate His presence and desire to be faithful servants of His.

LONG DISTANCE

Rev. H. T. Durden, pastor at Henderson, N. C., called to report that he and his good people were realizing a gracious soul- and body-healing campaign conducted by Rev. Vance Perkins, of Shelby, N. C. In their first week, 24 had been saved, 10 sanctified, and 6 baptized with the Holy Ghost. The following will give you an idea of how the Lord is blessing the people physically: a boy healed of a growth on chest; many healed of arthritis; boy healed of heart affliction; hearing restored to three women; woman healed of diabetes; woman healed of high blood pressure; woman 55 years old received sight in both eyes; a girl's eyesight restored. It was certainly easy to detect in the conversation with Brother Durden that he was a very happy pastor.

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—We are blessed with one of the most spiritual churches in Arkansas, and we have one of the best pastors you could find anywhere. When Brother and Sister Ramsey came we had only about 30 in Sunday School. Now we have almost 100 attending. Our Y.P.E. attendance was about 12, but now we have about 40 in our services. Brother and Sister Ramsey are doing a wonderful work here at Pine Bluff. If you want to visit a church where they shout the praises of God and are not ashamed of old-time religion, just come to Fifth and Texas Streets, Pine Bluff, Ark.—A member, Herman Ensley.



Rev. and Mrs. Floyd Ramsey

Sermonettes

SPIRITUAL HINDRANCES

By W. G. LIGHTE, Pastor
Indian Run, Ky.

Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, and the SIN which doth so easily BESET US."

From the time Lucifer was cast out of heaven until the present day there has been a continual struggle between



W. G. Lighte

the forces of good and evil. Satan, the wily serpent, has sought the means of striking at God through God's most chosen creation, mankind. In the beautiful Garden of Eden, where our foreparents enjoyed every blessing that could be bestowed upon the human family, where the voice of God communed with them in the cool of the day, where peace reigned supremely and where man was entirely satisfied, we see Satan, the subtle one, appearing on the scene, and through his allurements, enticements, and subtilty, he dethroned man from his spiritual throne, claspings the shackles of sin on his soul and causing the penalty of death to be placed on all mankind. From the fall of man in the garden until the present, the enemy of the soul has waged a non-ceasing warfare against man. Through his cunning devices, through his crafti-

ness and deceitfulness, Satan has caused teeming millions to be damned forever in the pits of hell.

Today, this PRESENT moment, millions of precious souls, doomed and forever lost, are crying, screaming, praying, and begging for mercy in the lower regions of the lost, the price they are paying for forsaking the way of right and being led astray by the archenemy. The rich man, who at one time lived in luxury and ease, who seemingly had all heart could desire in this world, except the love of God in his soul, was hindered by Satan in traveling the path which led to the blessed home eternal, and DIED and was BURIED. The next picture we see of this man is where he lifted his eyes in HELL, crying for mercy and for only one drop of water to cool his tongue, tormented in the flame. While the flame of hell licked his soul, while pain and misery enveloped his very BEING, while his tongue was no doubt swollen from the awfulness of the torment, he CRIED with a LOUD voice unto Abraham, not for a bucket of water, not for a cup of cool water; no, dear ones, not for a spoonful of cool, refreshing water, but that ONLY Lazarus, the roadside beggar, be sent to him, to the RICH MAN, there in the regions of the damned, that he might dip the TIP of his finger in water and cool his tongue. But we hear the answer come ringing back and falling on his ears: "SON, REMEMBER." My God, my God, what a pitiful sight, there in the merciless jaws of Satan, this poor rich man, who lived in luxury and ease on earth, who had no time or good word for the beggar who was laid at his gate, is now CRYING, PLEADING, IMPLOING that this SAME beggar be allowed to pay him a visit there in the eternal home of the doomed! There is no doubt in my mind whatever that he would have WILLINGLY given ALL his riches and earthly possessions; yea if it were possible, would have given TEN THOUSAND worlds like this, just for ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY, not more than ONE, JUST ONE MORE; but, alas, it is TOO LATE, TOO LATE, TOO LATE! Somewhere along his way; yea, my friend, along life's way at some time, he was HINDERED by

the devil, and NOW he is reaping the awful consequence.

The same devil who fought against the rich man and dragged his SOUL to the blackness of hell, is on the track of YOU and ME. Yes, he is scheming, persuading, alluring, and using EVERY method at his command to entrap our souls and crush our hopes. At his will and bidding precious souls are being enslaved by his power. Millions upon millions of people of THIS day are being deceived and seduced by the enemy at his will. He has many means of carrying on his warfare against the human race, and many agents under his control. Man does not have to wilfully sin to be lost. There are millions in our fair land alone who depend wholly on church membership to tide them over and at last gain them an entrance into the city of God. Many of these precious, honest-hearted souls fail to read and study God's eternal Word, but rely SOLELY on the counsel and advice of some uncalled, unholy, ungodly man who claims to be a minister of the Lord, but in reality is a wolf in sheep's clothing, fleecing his congregation of their means and caring NOTHING whatever about the welfare of their souls. My dear ones, this is the workings of the devil.

In order to combat the enemy successfully and win the eternal reward of the soul, we must put on the WHOLE armor of God. We can obtain this armor only through studying the Word of God, prayer, and righteous living. Paul states that in the last days false prophets will arise, even among ourselves, and lead honest-hearted souls astray into everlasting destruction. These false prophets will teach there is no harm in sinning now and then, that you can mingle with and indulge in the contaminated vices of this world and still please God. My friend, this is not so. It is a damnable lie and is another hindrance Satan has placed in the path of the human family, and millions are being deceived and destroyed thereby. The Bible teaches that the soul that sinneth shall die. There are no big sins, no small sins, no black sins, and no white sins in the sight of God. In the eyes of God, ALL unrighteousness is

SIN and we know that NO sin shall enter into the glory of God's heaven.

In the 11th chapter of Hebrews, the writer gives a vivid picture of those who obtained the blessings of God through FAITH and living CLOSE to our Maker, and then continues in the 12th chapter with the admonition that we LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT and the SIN. My friends, WE must do the laying aside of the weights and the sin. We cannot expect God to catch us by the hair of the head and TAKE the weights from us. He, for Christ's sake, forgives our actual sins; that is, if we will GO OUT of the sinning business. It is up to YOU and ME to lay aside the WEIGHTS.

Many are the weights that tend to hinder God's people. There are the hindrances of unbelief, hatred, pride, jealousy, covetousness, etc., and in order that we please God, ALL these must be laid aside and our hearts WHOLLY surrendered to the will of God. I realize there are those who will advise you there is no harm in the LITTLE sins; but, my loved ones, the LITTLE fox is the one that destroys the vine. Many shall appear before God on that day and say, "Lord, in thy name we have done great works; in thy name we have done many miracles," and He will say, "Depart from me; I never knew you."

The prince of Persia hindered Daniel in receiving the answer from God. Saul endeavored to shackle little David with a coat of armor (much too large) when he went to meet Goliath. Lot's wife was hindered by her love for Sodom. Paul was hindered by false brethren. In fact, it is the devil's business to hinder EVERYONE who makes a start for God; but thanks be to God and our Lord Jesus Christ, we can, by the power of God, win the battle every time. Don't let the enemy deceive you with the thought that you may pray too much or that you may get too close to God. Remember this one thing, if a man gets too close to God, God will take him as he did Noah of old. There is very little possibility that anyone will get too close to God, while in this life; but to the opposite. Watch and pray that you do not DRIFT too far away.

They that run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize. My friends, we are in a race and the goal is heaven; the prize is eternal life with God and Jesus the Son; and if we will make this race successfully, we must detach all the hobbles, shake ourselves

loose from EVERY weight, and strip for the race. You can't make it through with the ungodly things of this world tied to you. You must LAY THEM ASIDE and give yourselves over ENTIRELY into the hands of God. The allurements of the world, the pride of life, and so-called worldly pleasure is costing many precious ones their eternal souls. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of SIN is DEATH." If you continue in sin, either big sin, little sin, committed sin, sin of omission, black sin, white sin, or any sin, your WAGES is DEATH; but the gift of God is eternal life. Which is your choice?

WE ARE NOT OUR OWN

By Rev. T. A. Richard

(Brother Richard is one of our sweet-spirited retired ministers.) -

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's," 1 Cor. 6:20. We should realize that after we have been made a new creature in Christ we were purchased by His own blood, that we belong to Him, that we are His and not our own. Rom. 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." 1 Peter 2:21, 22, "Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature . . .," 2 Cor. 5:17.

When we accepted the purchase price of the blood of Christ we became new creatures; we had a new Master; and all things became new to us. Now if our new Master tells us to do a thing, we should strive to do it with all our might. That is what it takes to please Him. Our old master, sin and Satan, made us do things that was wrong through the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. We were brought under bondage to sin; we had no freedom. Many times when we thought we were having a lot of fun, it turned into a tragedy. But now we have the new Master who paid such an enormous price for us and showed us the good and new way of living by going before us and making it so plain that we can walk in His very footprints. Yes, there is suffering in the new way, but so much joy is mixed with the little sufferings that we can count it all joy.

2 Tim. 2:12, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny him,

he also will deny us." The thought of reigning with Him soothes the pain of suffering for His name's sake, and when we suffer a few things and overcome it all, it makes our glorying much more joyful. Then we can look up and thank Him for making us an overcomer. The new Master that loved us so dearly to purchase us with His own blood always makes a way for our escape in every temptation. He has gone to secure a mansion for us when this life is over. We will be with Him for all eternity and will be raised in His likeness of His resurrection. We will be glorified like Him and be eternal like Him. If we have done our duty as we should, we shall shine as the stars forever and ever. We shall have a crown like Paul's laid away for us, if we have lived so that we will love His appearance. So let's fight the good fight of faith, finish this fight and go home and receive the crown.

LEAKING VESSELS

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip," Heb. 2:1. The margin reads, "run out as leaking vessels."

What puts a leak in a vessel? It is usually carelessness. What was Christ continually warning the disciples against? Worldliness, conformity to the things of this world and being overcharged with the affairs of this life to the point that they would become engrossed in those things and would spend more time in and more care for their activities than in and for the Word of God. Many have said, "I want to take advantage of the opportunity and play safe," and they accumulate and strive for worldly advantage and worldly attainments. Meanwhile, they are getting leaner and leaner in their souls and farther and farther from God. It will not be long until the cares of this life, like the thorns in the field where the good seed was sown, will crowd out the truth.—Mrs. Ernest L. Hall.

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A monument carved by war

Some Things to Think About

Christian Public Schoolteachers Investigate Textbooks

Public schoolteachers who are Christians have made a study of 11 textbooks now in use in the public schools of a certain state of the Union—7 readers, 2 histories, 1 geography, and 1 English book. The 10-page (single space) report of this study contains some 200 annotations calling attention to points of criticism, giving the name of the textbook with page references in each.

This extensive report is in our possession. We have made sample check-ups. Analyzing this report we find that the subversive material can be grouped under 11 headings. The figure following each heading indicates the number of recurring cases of like criticism.

Subversive Elements—No. of cases

1. Un-Americanism (debunking, falsifying American history) 44
2. Conflict (killings, brutalities, animalism) 23
3. Rebellious spirit (disregard for parents and superiors, anarchistic, making light of democratic form of government) 17
4. Introducing revolution, mob violence 12
5. Evident design to create a confusion complex 11
6. Reference to secretiveness, underground, deception 8
7. Disrespect for church, religion, the Bible 5
8. Showing favoritism to Russia 5
9. Scap-box oratory, excessive free speech 4
10. Hollywoodized 4
11. Miscellaneous (comic strip illustrations, over-stimulation, bitterness, hideousness, harshness, disorder, vulgarity, cocky, smart-aleck, hatred, fire, arson, gangster spirit) 50

Air Minded

Records show that Americans spent more than \$38,000,000,000 for all kinds of domestic transportation in 1949, according to the Transportation Association of America. This outlay moved goods and people by waterways, railroads, highways, pipelines and air. The Association also offers the following facts for your travel and trade almanac: The U. S. possesses 27,451 miles of inland waterways, entirely owned by the Federal Government; 3,300,000 miles of streets and highways, owned by local, county and state governments; 39,368 miles of airways, regulated entirely by the Federal Government; 6,210 airports, owned by municipalities and the states; 225,149 miles of railroad rights-of-way which, with few exceptions, are privately owned.

A checkup also shows that scheduled airlines throughout the world carried more than 25,000,000 passengers during 1949, according to the International Air Transport Association. And during the year, a scheduled airliner took off or landed every five seconds of each day or night.

In the United States, airlines racked up a new record in 1949 by flying 16,500,000 persons a total of 8,800,000,000 miles. This is an increase of 2,000,000 passengers over 1948 and is attributable chiefly to lower fares.

On, Steadily On!

When Arago, the astronomer, was young, he became thoroughly discouraged over mathematics. One day he found on the flyleaf of a textbook a few words from the famous D'Alembert to a student who had been discouraged like himself. D'Alembert's advice was very short; it was "Go on, sir, go on!"

Arago said afterward that that sentence was the best teacher of mathematics that he ever had. Following it doggedly, he went on until he became the leading mathematician of his day. No man has ever exhausted the power that lies in the words "Go on."

Going ahead, steadily and perseveringly, step by step, is the secret of material, moral, and spiritual success.

The World's Free Workers

"Representatives of 50,000,000 free workers all over the world are close to the conclusion of their task of forming an anti-Communist world labor federation. The organization, if it lives up to the principles voiced at the London conference and already written into its tentative constitution, will rank with such international undertakings as the Marshall Plan, the Western European Union and the Atlantic Pact in man's striving for a better democratic world order."

Albania Names Joe Stalin a God

London—Albania called Joseph Stalin a god today.

The official Albanian telegraph agency said the Albanian people's assembly voted to erect a statue of "the deity Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin."

Said Albanian Premier Enver Hoxha, as quoted by the agency:

"The great Stalin is our people's glorious saviour."

The only real way to "prepare to meet thy God" is to live with thy God, so that to meet Him shall be nothing strange.—Phillips Brooks.

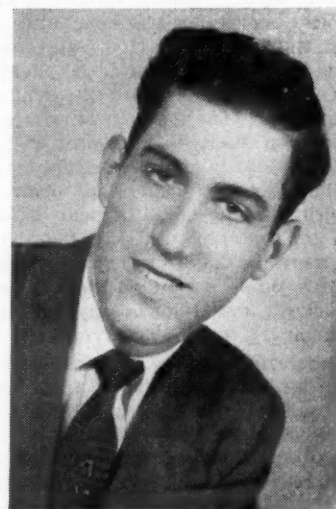
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND Y. P. E. WORK IN LOUISIANA

This group is a part of the Y.P.E. at Archibald, La. They received both state banners for the Y. P. E. for the month of October. This little country church has 52 members, with an average attendance in the Sunday School of about 40. Their average Y. P. E. attendance is 60. They also take three rolls of Lighted Pathways, which is the most for any church in this state, at present.—J. W. Blow, Pastor.

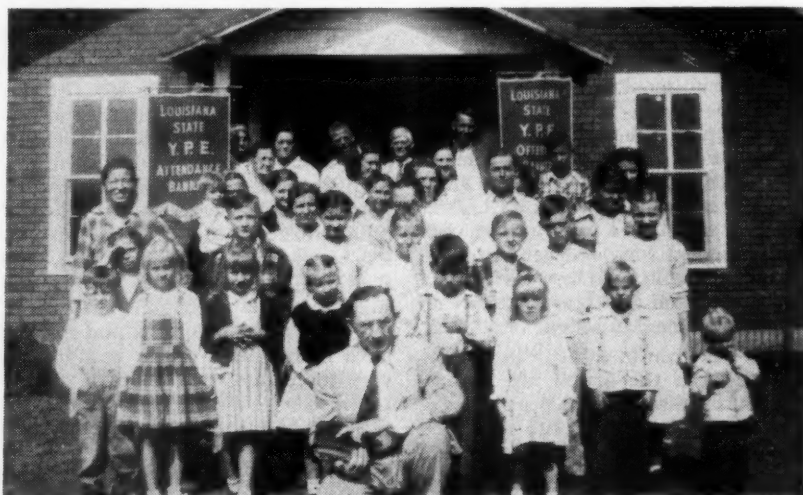
The little church at Bastrop, La., which was started about a year ago, is doing very nicely. A few Sundays ago, when we were there, they broke their Sunday School attendance record with 70. A few Sundays after that, they had 76. The offerings for this little church well average over 10c per person.—L. E. Easley, Pastor.

Recently, we have adopted a plan to raise 10c per person in the Sunday School and Y. P. E. Many of our pastors have already responded with amazing results. Brother Taylor, at Monroe, raised for the month of October \$89.91 in the Sunday School offerings there. Others have fallen in line with this, and for the month of October we had the highest offering for the whole state that ever has been raised by the Sunday School.

Our Lighted Pathway distribution is rising with amazing rapidity.—Amos A. Ledford, State Youth Director.



Rev. Amos A. Ledford



THE THORN IN THE FLESH

(Continued from page 4)

above measure." Paul tells us he found deliverance from *sin*, yet he admits he sought the Lord thrice (three times, if you please) for deliverance from "the thorn in the flesh" but received no deliverance. His only assurance concerning this problem was that God's grace was "sufficient." Whatever the "thorn in the flesh" may have actually been, the fact still remains that God did not propose to remove it. Only GRACE SUFFICIENT TO BEAR IT was promised. God takes away our sin by the blood of His Lamb, and then, to keep *His people* from getting like the little negro boy who fell into the barrel of molasses, "ALL STUC UP," He gives to *those who need it* the "thorn in the flesh." That's just like God, isn't it? He *takes away* that we do not need and gives us what we need, even the "thorn in the flesh" included, if our circumstances call for it.

Let me illustrate this point like this. A person has a mouthful of aching, decaying teeth. His very gums are diseased with pyorrhea. He has something he doesn't need. His dentist extracts those aching teeth which are wasted use. The gums heal, and the dentist makes him a new set of teeth with which to chew his food. He takes away that which caused pain and discomfort and gives him a new set. That is just like God, only God is the better dentist. The new teeth will cause him some discomfort but not like the old ones. So it is with the thorn in the flesh compared to the Adamic nature.

It is also my profound conviction that the "thorn in the flesh" is not defective vision, either, as some Bible students contend. This, I think, I can satisfactorily prove. If, dear reader, Paul's thorn was defective vision, he received it the day of his conversion on his way to Damascus when he was struck to the earth with a light from heaven—that's their contention. This does not jibe with Paul's claim. According to his statement he received it after his trip to the third heaven, where he saw things unlawful for a man to utter, things beyond the description of mortal tongue, things that eye hath not seen nor ear heard, and that was several years after his conversion. The "thorn in the flesh" was given unto Paul for a special purpose; viz., "LEST HE SHOULD BE EXALTED ABOVE MEASURE," 2 Cor. 12:7. It is clear that all men do not

receive this thorn in the flesh, and only those who are given special callings and visions really need it; but sin, the Adamic nature, enters in upon all. The "thorn in the flesh" is given only to those individuals who need it to keep them from thinking more highly of themselves than they ought. If we had taken a pre-death trip to the third heaven and seen what Paul saw, we, perhaps, would need a thorn in our flesh to keep our feet on the earth, too.

If bodily afflictions are the "thorn of the flesh," as some claim, then both saints and sinners have the "thorn in the flesh." The best people have it—the worst people have it, too. To make such a claim is absurd and fantastic. Neither is it the ungodly desires that well up in unsaved breasts, as one vile sinner claimed to me.

Then what is "the thorn in the flesh"? Now, let us get down to brass tacks and shoe soles—the facts of the case. I think I have proved satisfactorily that it is not the Adamic nature or bodily afflictions. What have you to say about it? Nobody can define "a thorn in the flesh" better than Paul himself. Paul called it "THE MESSENGER OF SATAN to buffet me." Abundance of visions, revelations, and interpretations had been meted out to Paul as a "chosen vessel of God," and God realized that something must be done to keep him humble, to keep him from being exalted above measure! So, He permits Satan to send a MESSENGER INTO THE FLESH, OR BODY, of Paul to keep him humble, to keep him realizing he was still human. That messenger was possibly a demon empowered with the authority to buffet Paul's body in any way he desired, save the taking of his life. Remember Job and his plight? This demon, or messenger,

was not just defective vision, bodily afflictions, and diseases; but he held in his hand the power to afflict, hinder, reproach, bring Paul in want, persecute, and distress him generally. We are not to understand that this messenger was dwelling in Paul's body, for Paul was not a servant of sin or Satan. But this demon, or messenger, was to attack him from without often. Due to this, Paul was kept realizing his need of God's help all the time. After seeking three times for deliverance from this messenger of Satan he gave up the effort, after God promised that "HIS GRACE WAS SUFFICIENT FOR HIM," and that "HIS STRENGTH WAS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS," 2 Cor. 12:9.

In conclusion, let me add that God permits Satan to send a messenger, or a "thorn in the flesh" only to those who need it! Most Christians get along nicely without one; in fact, they don't live close enough to God to merit this safeguard against over-exaltation. Let's get closer to God, even if it should mean receiving a "thorn in the flesh." For one thing sure, God's grace would be just as sufficient for us as it was for Paul. May God bless you.

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Compiled by William H. Leach

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OBITUARIES

BELL

Francis Edwin Bell was born Nov. 4, 1886, and died Feb. 2, 1950, at his home on First Street, Cleveland, Tenn., at the age of 63 years, 2 months, and 28 days, following an extended illness. The testimony which he left was that he was ready to go. His wife, two sons, one of whom is Lee Bell, and one daughter survive.

Brother Lee Bell, our printing foreman, has faithfully and efficiently served our Publishing House for 15 years. He is not only a member of the North Cleveland Church of God, but a man greatly appreciated by all

the department heads and employees here at Headquarters and especially in our Publishing House work. We extend to him our heartfelt sympathy in his bereavement.—J.D.B.

SEARCY

Sandra Lynette Searcy, of Astatula, Fla., died Nov. 29, 1949, at the age of 2 years. Surviving her are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Joseph Searcy; her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Searcy; her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roland James; 1 brother and 2 sisters. Her funeral was conducted by Rev. William Connel, with Rev. Frank Mickler assisting.

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